

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN TOTAL 4.6 MILLION CASES OF DENGUE

IN BRAZIL ALONE, THERE ARE OVER 3 MILLION SUSPECTED CASES OF THE DISEASE, AND BRAZIL P&I'S BULLETIN SHOWS THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY



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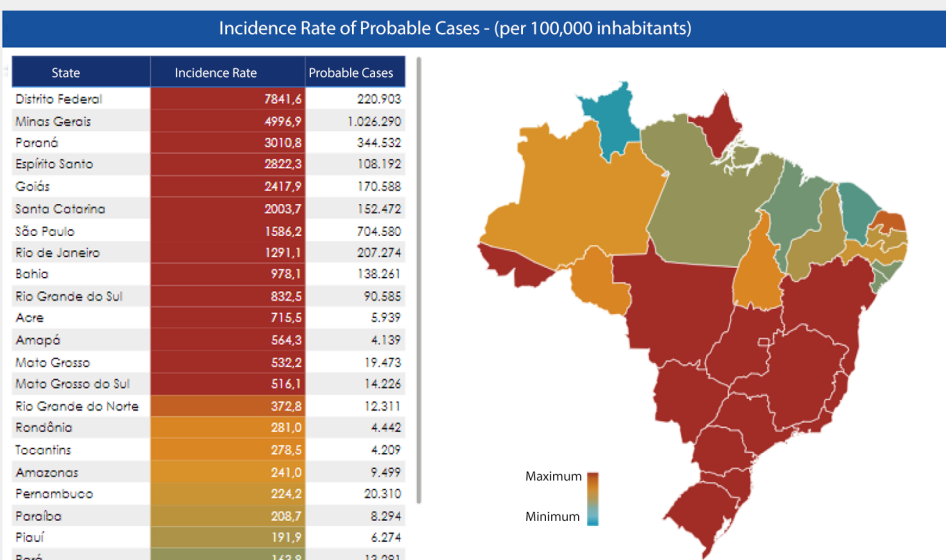
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INTRODUCTION

Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have reported approximately 4.6 million cases of dengue this year. The number represents a 237% increase compared to the same period last year. The significant increase is caused by the epidemic in Brazil. The country surpasses 3.5 million probable cases in 2024, or 67.4% of the reports from other locations.

The information comes from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The data was collected in the first 15 weeks of the year and includes the first few days of April. In absolute numbers, Brazil leads the ranking. The countries immediately behind Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, and Peru, in order, do not exceed 200 thousand cases each.

One of the reasons that explain Brazil's prominence is the fact that it is the country with the largest population. However, when looking at the incidence of dengue, i.e., the proportion of cases in relation to the population, the country ranks second, behind Paraguay.



According to PAHO's numbers, Paraguay has an index of 2,540 cases per thousand inhabitants, while Brazil registers 1,816. However, according to the Brazilian Ministry of Health, the incidence rate is 1,529 per group of one thousand people. Regarding confirmed dengue deaths, Brazil has recorded 1,292 cases in 2024.

The country leads PAHO's absolute numbers ranking. However, proportionally, the country ranks ninth, behind Paraguay, Guatemala, Peru, Bolivia, Honduras, Ecuador, Argentina, and Panama.

The World Health Organization (WHO) actively monitors dengue outbreaks and epidemics in at least 23 countries, 17 of which are in the Americas - including Brazil. The increase in cases is due to environmental factors such as increased rainfall and consequently humidity, favoring the proliferation of the mosquito, as well as rising global temperatures, both phenomena caused by climate change.

SEE HOW THE SITUATION IS IN THE CITIES THAT HOST THE MAIN BRAZILIAN PORTS:



SANTOS

In the city that houses the right bank of the country's largest port, 1,258 cases of dengue have been confirmed. There are already 1,864 probable records. Two deaths are under investigation.

In Guarujá, on the other bank, there are 3,253 suspected cases, including three deaths. Two other deaths have already been confirmed in the city, as well as 2,797 cases.

The state of São Paulo has recorded more than 600 thousand confirmed cases of dengue this year. The number of deaths has reached 305, and another 618 deaths are still under investigation.



RIO DE JANEIRO

According to the Rio de Janeiro State Department of Health, there has been a progressive decrease in cases of the disease over the past three weeks. Probable dengue cases fell by almost 50% in the state, from 14,782 in week 12 (from 03/17 to 03/23) to 7,406 in week 13 (from 03/24 to 03/30).

In the city of Rio de Janeiro alone, there are 91.6 thousand probable cases and 12 deaths under investigation. Among the confirmed records, the total is over 78 thousand.

According to the epidemiological scenario, the state of Rio went from level 3 of the secretariat's contingency plan (when the number of probable cases is ten times above the endemic limit) to level 2 (between five and ten times). Four regions of the state - Serrana, Metropolitan I, which includes the Baixada Fluminense and the state capital, Baixadas Litorâneas, and North Fluminense - still have a number of cases above expected.



RECIFE

Recife is in the state of Pernambuco, which has recorded 20,896 probable cases of dengue. Of the total, 1,434 have already been confirmed. The others are being investigated by the State Department of Health, which reported 31 severe cases and one death from the disease in the state. The incidence is 230 probable cases per 100 thousand inhabitants. With this, records are 564% higher when compared to the same period last year, when 2,993 cases were reported.

In Recife alone, there are 3,781 probable cases and 6 deaths under investigation. Among the confirmed cases, records total 3,575.



SALVADOR

The port of Salvador is located in Bahia. Of the 417 municipalities in the state, 269 are in a dengue epidemic. In total, 37 deaths from the disease have been confirmed.

In Salvador alone, there are 6,466 probable cases of dengue. The incidence is 267.4 cases per 100 thousand inhabitants. There is one death under investigation, according to the Ministry of Health.



PARANAGUÁ

The state of Paraná has already confirmed 140 deaths caused by dengue in the current epidemiological period, which began in July 2023. During this period, there are 219,045 confirmed cases, 34,226 more compared to the previous report, in addition to 451,280 notifications and 97,083 cases under investigation.

In the port cities of Paranaguá and Antonina, there are 1,732 and 2,243 confirmed cases, respectively. There are also 1,954 and 2,253 cases under investigation, respectively.

THE DISEASE

Dengue is a disease caused by a virus, transmitted by the bite of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. The characteristic symptoms are high fever (lasting up to 7 days), muscle and joint pain, headache and eye pain, loss of appetite, and red spots on the body.

Not everyone presents these symptoms. That is why it is important to seek health services. Dengue can present complications, including occurrence of minor bleeding, which do not constitute hemorrhagic dengue, the severe form of the disease.

It usually occurs when the person has had dengue before (the patient may or may not know). Confirmation of hemorrhagic dengue is done by clinical examination (performed by the doctor) and laboratory tests. Usually on the 5th day, the disease can progress to a state of severity. In this case, it is important to seek health services and follow all medical recommendations. In case of symptoms such as headache, behind the eyes, body and joint pain, high fever, malaise, and red spots on the body, it is necessary to seek medical attention as soon as possible.

HOW TO KNOW IF YOU ARE INFECTED

There are several types of tests for dengue identification - RT-PCR, NS1 antigen, and serology -, which should be performed according to the stage of the disease and the symptoms at the time of the test. The NS1 test searches for the viral antigen, and RT-PCR tests detect the virus's genetic material.

While NS1 should be done up to five days after the onset of symptoms, RT-PCR can be performed up to seven days after the onset of infection. Serology tests search for IgM and IgG antibodies, which are produced by the individual as a result of the infection, and should be performed from the sixth day of infection onwards. Tests for the detection of chikungunya are RT-PCR and serology.

PREVENTION

The main recommendations for the population are to avoid stagnant water in containers such as flowerpots, old tires, water drums, pools, bottles, and containers, among others; periodically clean areas such as trash cans, drains, animal drinking fountains, and other objects that can accumulate water; do not dump garbage improperly in inappropriate places.

INDIVIDUAL PROTECTION MEASURES TO PREVENT MOSQUITO BITES:



Protect areas of the body that mosquitoes may bite by wearing long pants and long-sleeved shirts

Use insect repellents containing DEET (N,N-Diethyl-meta-toluamide), IR3535, or icaridin on exposed parts of the body (it can also be applied to clothing).

Use mosquito nets over the bed, window screens, and, when possible, air conditioning.

THE MOSQUITO

Female *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes lay eggs in stagnant water. These eggs need water and warmth to hatch. Thus, larvae emerge, which later turn into pupae and, finally, into mosquitoes.

Only female mosquitoes feed on human blood, which is necessary for the maturation of their eggs before being laid. However, if this female has bitten a person infected with dengue or chikungunya, she becomes a carrier of the viruses when she feeds on the blood of other individuals.

UNDERSTANDING DENGUE



The symptoms of dengue can vary from mild to severe and usually appear 4 to 10 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Some of the most common symptoms include:

Sudden high fever

Intense muscle pains, especially in the back and joints

Severe headache, often located behind the eyes

Fatigue and weakness

Nausea and vomiting

Skin rash

Mild to severe abdominal pain

Bleeding from mucous membranes, such as gums and nose

Loss of appetite